



ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF SHREWSBURY.

From Portrait at Hardwick Hall, belonging to The Duke of Devonshire.

**Elizabeth Hardwycke,
Countess of Shrewsbury,
A.D. 1520=1608.**

By REV. F. BRODHURST, M.A.



IN the two Heralds' Visitations of Derbyshire—the one by Augustine Vincent, Rouge Croix Pursuivant in 1621, preserved in the College of Arms in London, and the other by William Flower, Norroy King of Arms in the year 1569, and preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford—the Hardwycke, or Hardwyke pedigree is taken back six degrees, thus :

Will^m. Hardwycke, = Elizal^{eth}, dau. of
of Hardwycke, in | Sr. Robert Gawsell
the Countie of | or Gousill, of Bar-
Derbie. | borough, Co. Derby.

Roger Hardwycke, = Nichola, dau. of Robert
of Hardwycke. | Barley, of Barley or
Barlow, Co. Derby.
He died A.D. 1467.

John Hardwycke, = Elizabeth, dau. of Henry
of Hardwycke. | Bakewell, of Bakewell,
Born 1451. | Co. Derby.
Fought at Bosworth.

John Hardwycke, = Elizabeth, dau. of — Pinchebecke,
of Hardwycke. | of Pinchbecke, Co. Lincoln.

John Hardwycke, = Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Leeke,
of Hardwycke. | of Haslande, Co. Derby ; and
Relict of — Leche.

James Hardwycke, = Elizabeth, dau. of Hardwycke. of Sir Philippe Living A.D. 1569. Draycot, of Paynesley, Co. Stafford.	1 Mary, m. Richard Wingfield, Co. Suffolk.	2 Jane, m. (1) God- frey Bos- ville of Gunthwaite, Co. York. (2) Knyveton (?) Co Derby.	3 Elizabeth, m. (1) Robt. Barlow, of Barlow, Co. Derby. (2) Sir W ^m . Cavendish, of Cavendish, Co. Suffolk. (3) Sir W ^m . St. Loe, of Tormarton, Co. Glou- cester. (4) George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury.	4 Alice, m. Francis Leche, of Chatsworth, Co. Derby.
John Hardwycke, sold Hardwycke Hall.				

Augustine Vincent, Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Heralds' College in 1621, in his MS. *Visitation of Derbyshire*, where, after giving the main line descent of the Hardwyckes of Hardwycke Hall from William and Elizabeth, 19 Henry VI., to "Bess of Hardwycke" and her brother and sisters, commits himself to the statement, in a side-note, that they were descended from Sir William de Hardwycke of Hardwycke, grandson of Sir Joscelyne de Havermere de Hardwycke, son of Sir Joscelyne who fought at Hastings. The tradition in other branches of the Hardwycke family who were settled at Pattingham, co. Stafford, and at Hardwycke Hall, near Bromyard, and elsewhere, who claim to be descended from Roger Hardwycke, of Hardwycke Hall, co. Derby, is that their remote ancestor, Sir Joscelyne de Havermere, of Hardwycke, co. Derby, was a noble Saxon Thane, who fought at Hastings on the side of Harold, and was degraded by William the Norman, to whose memory there is now erected at Caen, in Normandy, an equestrian statue, with this inscription:

WILLIELMUS.
DUX NORMANNIÆ.
VICTOR ANGLIÆ.

The memorial-stone of the Robert Barlow who died in the year 1467, the father of Nichola Barlow, who married Roger Hardwycke of Hardwycke, is still preserved in Barlow Church, with this inscription:

✠ Orate pro anima Roberti Barley nuper defuncti qui obiit in die Assuptois Beate Marie Virginis, anno dni Millesimo cccc o lxº vijo. Item orate pro bono statu Margarete uxoris sue."

There was also formerly a memorial-stone to Robert Barlow, who was betrothed to Elizabeth Hardwycke, with this inscription:

"Hic jacet Robertus Barley et . . . uxor ejus quidem Robertus obiit 2 die Februarii Anno Dom. 1532 quorum animabus propitietur Deus. Amen."

It will be seen a space is left for the name of his wife, Elizabeth Hardwycke, but she married three times afterwards,

and found a resting-place at All Saints' Church, Derby. Elizabeth Hardwycke was the third daughter of John Hardwycke, of Hardwycke Hall, co. Derby. Her mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Leeke, of Hasland Manor, a member of the Sutton Scarsdale family, the head of which family was created Baron Deincourt, 26th October, 1624, and Earl of Scarsdale, 11th May, 1645, which peerage became extinct in the year 1736. Elizabeth Leeke, before marrying John Hardwycke of Hardwycke, had married a Leche of Chatsworth. This accounts for some pedigrees stating that he married Elizabeth Leeke, and others Elizabeth Leche. The Leches sold Chatsworth to the Agards, the Agards to Sir William and Lady Cavendish.

There is a MS. in the Chatsworth Library, by Nathaniel Johnston, M.D., written in the year 1692, which gives this account of the first marriage of Elizabeth Hardwycke to Robert Barlow:

“I have been informed by some ancient gentlemen, it was accomplished by her being at London attending the Lady Zouche at such time as Mr. Barlow lay sick there of a Chronicall Distemper. In which time this young gentlewoman making him many visits upon account of their neighbourhood in the country and out of kindness to him, being very sollicitous to afford him all the helpe she was able to do in his sickness by ordering his dyet and attendance, being then young, and very handsome, he fell deeply in love with her, of whose greate affections to her she made such advantage, that for lack of issue by her, he settled a large inheritance in lands upon herself, and her heirs, which by his death a short time after she fully enjoyed.”

Robert Barlow was aged fourteen, Elizabeth Hardwycke was aged twelve, at the time of their betrothal. He died 2nd February, 1532.

The life of Elizabeth Hardwycke is naturally divided into the periods of her four marriages and her widowhood of seventeen years. Something has already been said of her first marriage.

Her second marriage took place when twenty-seven years of age, to Sir William Cavendish, and lasted from 1547 to 1557. It took place at Bradgate Park, co. Leicester, at 2.0 a.m. This has been mentioned in the article on "Sir William Cavendish" in vol. xxix. of this *Journal*. She was left a young widow, aged 37, with eight young children, to her intense grief and despair. It is probable, however, that the sorrows of this portion of her life were as a purifying fire, strengthening her character and developing the independent spirit which she manifested in all her future life, as well as fitting her for the high rank and station to which she afterwards attained. It must also always be remembered that she lived in the troubled reigns of four Tudor sovereigns—Henry VIII., Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, with the last of which her life was almost conterminous. She grew up, in fact, in character such another as the first lady of the land—Queen Elizabeth.

Bradgate Park, where the marriage with Sir William Cavendish took place, was the country seat of Henry Grey, Marquis of Dorset, who afterwards became Duke of Suffolk. He had married Lady Frances Brandon, daughter of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and the Princess Mary, youngest sister of Henry VIII., and was father of the Ladies Jane, Katharine, and Mary Grey. It was at Bradgate Park that Roger Ascham, the tutor of Edward VI., found the Lady Jane Grey reading Plato whilst her sisters were out hunting. Lady Cavendish was most intimate with this family—as is shown by being married from their house, and five members of the family being godparents of her children. But though there are portraits now hanging at Hardwick of other godparents of her children—such as Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, William Paulet, Marquis of Winchester, and Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester—there is not a single portrait now hanging there of the Grey family. We believe that there must have been portraits there from the great intimacy of the families, and thereby, we believe, hangs a

tale. Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth were naturally most jealous of the Grey family, from the Dukes of Northumberland and Suffolk having married their son and daughter, Lord Guilford Dudley and Lady Jane Grey, and placing her on their throne. Upon the death of Edward VI., the Duke of Northumberland raised an army in the Eastern Counties to oppose the Princess Mary. His army deserted him. He was arrested in the court of King's College, Cambridge. He flung up his cap in favour of Mary, but it was too late. He was hurried to the Tower, and, after a trial, was led out to execution. This was the end of godparent number one.

The Duke of Suffolk, father of Lady Jane Grey, was spared for the moment, through the intercession of his Duchess, the Lady Frances Brandon, who was a personal friend and cousin of Mary. But when he joined the insurrection of Sir Thomas Wyatt, he, too, was sent to the block; and thus ended the life of godparent number two.

Through the insurrection of the Duke of Suffolk, it was thought necessary to send to execution the Lady Jane Grey, his daughter, the nine days' Queen, and her husband, Lord Guilford Dudley. Thus ended the life of godparent number three.

When Elizabeth came to the throne, in order to keep her eye upon the two younger sisters, the Ladies Katharine and Mary Grey, she appointed them as Maids of Honour. But they both escaped her eagle eye. Without the consent of the Queen, the Lady Katharine married Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford. For a Seymour and a Grey to marry was to shake her throne, as Queen Elizabeth argued, consequently they were thrown into the Tower, and there the Lady Katharine died. Thus ended the life of godparent number four.

Lady Cavendish was aware of this marriage, and as she did not disclose it, she, too, had for a time to suffer imprisonment.

Another godparent, when only thirteen years of age, was the young Henry Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, brother to the

Lady Frances Brandon. He and his younger brother, the only surviving sons of Charles, the first duke, caught the sweating sickness when at the University of Cambridge, and died, to the intense grief of their relatives and of the nation. Thus ended the life of godparent number five.

The Lady Mary Grey did something worse than her sister, the Lady Katharine. She married the Queen's serjeant-porter—Martin Keys. He was a giant; she was a dwarf. They were both placed in confinement, and she was only released upon his death.

The mother of the three sisters—the Ladies Jane, Katharine, and Mary Grey—after the execution of her husband, Henry Grey, who had been created Duke of Suffolk, married, as is said in the peerage, to make the best of it, her “Master of the Horse,” or, as we should say, her “Stud Groom”—Adrian Stokes. She was forbidden the Court; and thus ended, so to speak, the life of godparent number six.

Thus, through the Grey family seizing the throne, and through some members of the family demeaning themselves, they were in disrepute.

Through their great intimacy with Sir William and Lady Cavendish, we believe their portraits must have been at Hardwick; and we believe they were taken down from the walls and cast out of the hall.

The preceding history shows us also what an anxious, sorrowful time the reign of Queen Mary, and the early years of Queen Elizabeth, must have been for Lady Cavendish, when her most intimate friends were one by one taken from her.

The next marriage was with Sir William St. Loe. He was Captain of the Guard to Queen Elizabeth, and Grand Butler of England. He had an estate at Tormarton, in co. Gloucester. Not much is known of this portion of her life, except that she was more at Court than during the reign of Queen Mary. There is extant an interesting letter from Sir George Pierrepont to Lady St. Loe, proposing a

marriage between his eldest son Henry and her eldest daughter Frances. It also refers to a law suit between himself and Mr. Whalley. The letter is written from his residence at Holbeck Woodhouse, near Cuckney, in co. Notts.; and Mr. Whalley was a near neighbour of his at Welbeck, which was eventually bought by this lady when she became Countess of Shrewsbury, and she made it over to her youngest son, Sir Charles Cavendish. In 1536 Mr. Richard Whalley was visiting lesser Monasteries in Leicestershire; and on 28th February, 1539, was granted the site of Welbeck Abbey. He was steward to the Duke of Somerset—Protector—and was engaged in promoting his restoration when the Earl of Warwick, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, obtained his downfall. He was sent to the Tower and fined heavily, and had to sell Welbeck and other manors. He was buried at Screveton, co. Notts., where there is a fine alabaster monument to his memory. Colonel Edward Whalley, who signed the death warrant of Charles I., was his great-grandson.

Sir George Pierrepont, of Holme Pierrepont, and of Holbeck Woodhouse, cast in his lot with the Reformers.

Thomas Becon, the Reformer, dedicated his book, *The Newes owte of Heaven: both pleasaunt and joyful*, written at Alsop-in-the-Dale in the Peak of Derbyshire, "to the right worshipful Master George Pierpount," to whom the author acknowledged himself to be greatly bound. And in *Narratives of the Reformation*, published by the Camden Society, there is a passage singularly illustrating the letter of Sir George Pierrepont: "Mr. Forde, in Quene Marie's dissmole days, was in Mr. Rychard Whalleis howse at Welbecke, he was commanded to go with his master to Sir George Perpountes, knyght, dwellyng at Wodhouse a myle of. There he herde chawntyng, syngyng, and torch-beryng in daylight at masse."

The following is the letter of Sir George Pierrepont to Lady Saint Loe:

"Right wurshipfull and my verreye good Ladye after my hertiest manr, I commende me to your good Ladishippe; even so preye you I meye be to good Mr. Sent-Loe; most hertelye thankinge you booth for your great paynes taken wth me at Holme; and the rather because I understand that your Ladishippe hathe not forgotten my sewte to you at your goinge awaye, as speciallye to make Mr. Sackvile and Mr. Attorneye my frends in the mattre betweene Mr. Whalleye ande me w'in he doethe me playne wronge (as I take it in my concyence) onelye to repe trouble and unquyett me. And touchinge suche comunicacion as was betweene us at Holme, yf your Ladishipe and the gentilwoman your daughtre lyke or beye uppon sight as well as I and my wife lyke the yong gentilwoman I will not shrinke one worde from yt I said or promised by the grace of God, Who preserve your Ladishipe and my Mr your husbunde longe together in wealthe, healthe, and prosperytie, to His pleasure, and your gentill herts desyer.

"From my porer house at Woodhouse the iiiith of November 1561: by the rewde lustie hande of your goode Ladishipe's assuredlye allowaye to comaude."

"George Purepounte.

"To the right worshipful and my singular goode Ladye my Ladye Sent-loo at London this be d.d. (delivered)."

The young lady, Frances Cavendish, was at this time thirteen years of age. The betrothal and marriage took place. It was through this marriage that one of the large houses built by the Countess of Shrewsbury, namely, Oldecoats, or Owlcoats, in the parish of Heath, with certain lands around it and in the parish of Calow, came into the Pierrepont family, and are still the property of Earl Manvers.

In the year 1568 Elizabeth Hardwycke began her real life in the world by which she is so widely known. In this year she married George Talbot, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, and in 1569 Mary Queen of Scots was placed in the charge of the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury. They were chosen on account of the confidence which the Queen had in them, and also because their numerous residences were away from the main roads, and were not far distant from each other, and were thus convenient for necessary changes.

The Earl of Shrewsbury had seven places of residence—Sheffield Castle, Sheffield Manor, South Wingfield Manor, Tutbury Castle, Worksop Manor, Buxton Hall, Rufford Abbey.

The Countess had two of her own—Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall.

The Earl and Countess were ready to receive the Queen of Scots at Tutbury on February 2nd, 1569. We will now as much as possible tell the life of the Countess from original letters, a large store of which exist, and which, from their language and their spelling, make the account more interesting. The first is a letter written by White, a servant of Queen Elizabeth, to Sir William Cecil. He, being on his way to Ireland, had occasion to consult Lord Shrewsbury, and for this purpose called on his way at Tutbury. When Mary understood that a servant of the Queen was at the castle, she desired that he might be introduced to her. The letter, in telling us about Queen Mary, incidentally opens to us some of the cares and anxieties of her guardians, and especially in connection with the safekeeping of their prisoner.

“26 February, 1569.

“I asked hir grace sence the wether did cutt of all exercises abroad, howe she passed the tyme within. She sayd that all the day she wrought with hir nydill, and that the diversitie of the colors made the worke seme lesse tedious, and contynued so long at it till veray payn made hir to give over, and with that layd hir hand upon hir left syde, and complayned of an old grief newly increased there. Upon this occasion she entred into a prety disputable comparision betwene karving, painting, and working with the nydill, affirming painting in her owne opinion for the moste comendable qualitie. I answered hir grace, I coulde skill of neither of theme, but that I have redd *Pictura* to be *Veritas Falsa*. With this she closed up hir talke and bydding me farewell, retired to her prevey chamber.”

“But if I (whiche in the sight of GOD beare the Quenes Majestie a naturall love besyde my bounden dutie) might give advise there shulde veray few subjects in this land have accesse to or conferens with this lady. For besyd that she is a goodly personadge (and yet in trouthe not comparable to our Souverain) she hathe withall an alluring grace, a prety Scottische speche, and a serching witt clouded with myldnes; Fame might move some to releve hir and glory joyned to gayn might stir others to adventure moche for hir sake. Then joy is a lively infective sens, and cariethe many perswasions to the hart, whiche rulethe all the rest. Myn awne affection by seeing the quenes majestie our Souverain is doubled, and thereby I gesse what sight might worke in others. Hir heare of itself is black and yett Mr Knolls told me that she weares heare of sundry colors.”

In June, 1569, the Earl and Countess were with their prisoner at South Wingfield Manor, where they stayed several months. It was at this time that Leonard Dacre made an unsuccessful attempt to release the Queen. In the next year, 1570, two sons of the Earl of Derby made a similar attempt. In 1571 it was found that the Duke of Norfolk was holding a secret correspondence with the Queen; that he was intending to carry her off and to marry her. The Earl wrote to Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley :

“Truly I wold be very lothe that any libertie or exercise shuld be graunted unto the Queen, or any of hers out of these gates, for fear of many daungers nedeles to be remembred unto yor L. I do suffer her to walk upon the leads here in open ayre, in my large dining chamber and also in this courtyard, so as both I myself, or my Wife be alwaies in her Company, for avoiding all others talk to herself or any of hers; And suer watch is kept wthin and wthout the walles both night and day, and shall so contynue God willing so long as I shall have the charge. Thus I commit yor good L. unto God.

“From Sheffield Castle this xith

“of December 1571.”

“G. Shrewsbury.”

In the year 1572 the Earl of Shrewsbury presided at the trial of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, as Lord High Steward, and had to pronounce sentence of death upon him. These and other attempts of the same nature, which cannot be referred to here, show what an anxious time both the guardians of the Queen must have had.

About the year 1569-70 it would appear that Mr. James Hardwycke, brother of the Countess, got into financial difficulties, and had to part with Hardwycke Old Hall and the lands then belonging to it. The Countess purchased them of her brother for her nephew. This explains how the third daughter of Mr. John Hardwycke became the owner. The following note appears amongst the papers of the Countess :

“Mr James Hardwyckes Estate, 1570.”

“And so lastly the totalle sume of all the sumes afore wrytten over and besyde colemynes, ore mynes, the profit of the Cole, land that Mrs Lyeche hath for terme of lyfe, marrle pyttes, and dyvers things

unvalued, and over and besyde Woodesales, haryotes, fynes, pawnages, and fees of courtes, amounteth to yerlye threhundreth and fyftie ij pounds, viijs. iiij*l.*—ccclij*l.* viijs. iiij*l.*”

(Or in present value about £2,800.)

In the year 1574 the marriage took place of Charles Stuart, Earl of Lennox, younger brother of Lord Darnley, with Elizabeth Cavendish, youngest daughter of Lady Cavendish, Countess of Shrewsbury. It took place at Rufford Abbey, after a few days' acquaintance, and without the knowledge of Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen, when she heard of it, was in great wrath. The Countesses of Lennox and Shrewsbury were put under guard. The Earl had to make excuses to the Queen as best he could. The following letter appears in the Shrewsbury correspondence, now at the Herald's Office :

“ May it please your Mate, I understand of late your Maties displeasure ys sowght agenst my Wyfe for maryage of hyr daughter to my La. lenewyx sone I moost confes to your Mate as trwe ys, yt was delte in sodenly and without my knowledge, but as I dare undertake and assure to your Mate for my Wyfe, she fyndyng hyr daughter dysappoynted of yong bartiel whom she hoped and that thoder younge gentylman was inclyned to love with a five days acqayntyns dyd hyr best to further hyr daughter to thys match, without havyng thereyn any other intent or respect therwith revelentantie towarde your Mate she owght. I wrote of thys mater to my l. of lec. (Lord of Leicester) a good whyle ago at great length. I hyd nothing from hym that I knewe was done abowte the same, and thought not mete to troble your Mate therewyth because I take yt to be of no sych importance as to wryte of untill nowe that I am by syche as I see wyll not forbear to devyse, and speake w^h may procure any susspycyon or dowtfulness of my servyce; but as I have always fownde your Mat^e my good and gracious Soveraygne, so do I confort myselfe that wysdome can fynde out ryght well what causes move therunto and therefore am not afferd of any dowtful opynyon nor displeasure to remeane with your Mate of me or my Wyfe whome your heighness and your Councell have many weys tryed in tymes of most danger. We never had any other thought or respect but as your Mate moste true and faithful servants and so do truly serve and faithfully love and honer your Mate, praying to almightie god for your Mate as wee are in dutie bownden.”

“ Showsburye.”

“ Sheffield ”

“ 2 decembr 1574.”

¹ He was son of Mr. Bertie and the Duchess of Suffolk, who was Baroness Willoughby D'Eresby in her own right, of Grimsthorpe Castle, near Stamford, and last wife of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

In 1575 a child of the marriage was born at Chatsworth—Lady Arbella Stuart. Her father died in 1576, her mother in 1582; so she was brought up by her grandmother at Hardwick, and caused her great anxiety. Being first cousin to King James VI. of Scotland, the son of Lord Darnley and Mary Queen of Scots, in case of his death without issue she became next heir to the thrones of Scotland and England, and intrigues centred round her. It was the possibility of this that made Queen Elizabeth so suspicious and so wrathful at not being consulted about the marriage.

The following letter is interesting. It is from the Countess of Shrewsbury to Queen Elizabeth after the death of Charles Stuart, Earl of Lennox, father of the Lady Arbella Stuart. From the Cecil MSS. at Hatfield.

“ 17 . March . 1577-78.”

“ May yt plese your moast exelent Magystye, I am outterly onhabyll to expresse the monyfolde causes I have to yelde your Magystye my moast humbyll thankes and presently yⁿ that I onderstand by my very good lorde of leicester that y^t hath pleased your magystie of your moast especyall and gracyous goodness to grante unto my poure dowter lenex the custody of her childe nott 'it standyng that ther were divers meanes yoused to your highnes for the conterary, someche the more am I bounden to rest your faythefoull and thancfoull sarvante for the same; and I do beseeche your magystie that I may committe wolly unto your moaste Gracyous consideracn my sayde poure dowteres case of whoyes only goodness I repouse my wolle troust, besechinge your magystye to have yⁿ remembrance the furder sutte of my lord and me on theyes two oure childeryne behalfe, and so as we are moast bowden we wyll never seasse to prey to the almyghte god longe to prosper your magystye yⁿ all joy, and perfytt healthe and felycyte longe and happy reyne over us.

“ At Shefelde the xvij of Marche your magystye's most bouden subjett and sarvant

“ E. Showesbury.”

And so the years went on, the Earl and Countess and their prisoner changing from Sheffield Castle to Sheffield

Manor, to Chatsworth, to Buxton, and Worksop Manor. The strict guardianship and the sameness of life, mewed up as they were in castles and manor houses, must have been sorely trying to all, and sufficient to try the temper of an Archangel. Moreover, the Earl was becoming an old man, and was a martyr to gout. In the year 1582 he had the grievous loss of his eldest son, Francis, Lord Talbot, who died at Belvoir. There is extant a letter from the Queen to the Earl at this time.

“My good old Man,

“I doubt not but you do now even long to heare from us, considering we have not this good while written anything unto you. The cause thereof hath been the only stay for a convenient messenger that might be most acceptable to you, such as a one as this little young Postillean we thinck will prove; whom as we have chosen to be the messenger for bringing this our letter to you, so would we have you receive the same as a more sure and ffaithful messenger to express the continuance of your gracious Sovereign’s good opinion and favor as largely as yourself can wish towards you. Whom you shall be also assured to finde will allwayes reserve one care open for you, against any blast that may be procured to be sounded in the other against you, if any such occasion should be offered.

“Your good wage towards the Widow your daughter in lawe, wherein you shew yourself like yourself, that is an honorable, noble Gentleman, we pray you continue, and receive our very hearty thancks for the same; and because we assure ourself that in your Prayers you are not unmindful of us, so do we also pray GOD to keepe unto us in health such a faithful noble subject, as we have allwayes found you, and to deliver you from your ancient enemy the Gout.

“Your loving Sovereign,

“Elizabeth R.”

Ugly rumours had reached the ear of the Queen about an intimacy between the Earl and the Queen of Scots; the Countess had become jealous, and had spread abroad reports of this. In the year 1583 she left her husband. In 1584 the Earl was relieved from his charge of the Queen of Scots, after a weary, tedious guardianship of fifteen and a half years. Bernardino de Mendoza, his Ambassador in England, detailed to Philip of Spain the Earl of Shrewsbury’s expression to Elizabeth for delivering him from his charge: “de’ l’avoir delivre de deux démons, savoir sa femme et la reine d’Ecosse.”

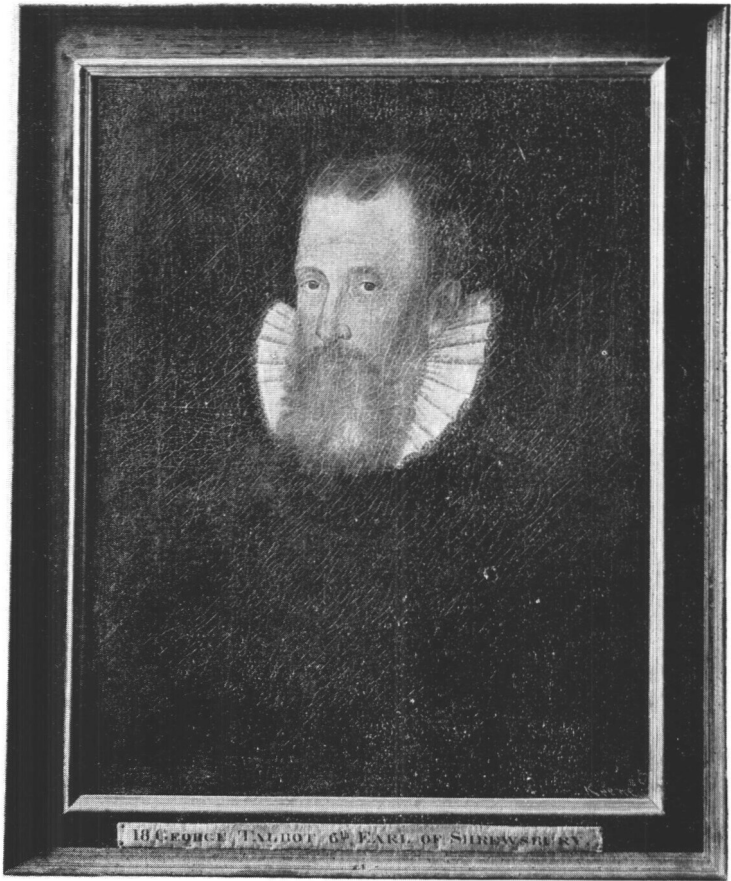
It was at this time that the two following letters were written, which explain themselves. Mr. Roger Manners and Mr. John Manners, of Haddon, were brothers of the first wife of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was a daughter of the Earl of Rutland. They were frequent visitors at Hardwick in after years.

The first letter is from Roger Manners to his brother, John Manners.

“ 23 September 1854.

“ You have great reson to honor and love your Contrye Erle (of Shrewsbury), for I perceve he loveth you moch. He hath here behaved himself both noblie and wisely, so as his adversaries may be asshamed of that they have sayd and don agenst him. I dout not but you are alreedy informed of the manner of his coming hither and of his fyrst intertaynment by her Majestie. I will therefor be bryeff. I wayted to his lordship to London and the next day retourned to Court. The day he cam to Court I met him by the way, and opon som speach I had with her Majestie. His Lordship thought good to lye (alight) at the Court Gate, and so went in boldlie. In the great Court my Lord of Leicester met him and broughte him the privie way into her Majesties gallerye when her Majestie cam to him forthwith, and tolked with him an hower or more, and used him very gratiosly. He only told her Majestie the joy he toke in the seght of her, and she was glad to see him, so as nothing passed but kyendness and rejoysing. The next day his lordship cam to her Majestie into her privie Chamber; she made him have a stul and to syt downe by her, and then talked with him at the lest 2 howers. Amongst other things my Lord toke knowledge how he had bin slandured by sundrye bruytes (reports) desyred therefor her Majestie that he myght justifie himself, saying he would defend his honor and loyaltie to her Majestie agenst all the world. Her Majestie was well plesed with his words, and told him she did accompt him for a loyall and faythfull servant, and estemed and trusted him as moch as any man in England. The next day he was sent for to syt with the rest of her Majesties counsell, but he when he cam there refused to syt till he knew if any of them could charge him with any lack of dutie to her Majestie. To be short, he was then declared by them all both honorable and loyall and fytt to be a companion with them in counsell; so he satt downe and toke his place to his great honor. Syns, her Majestie hath bin sondry tymes in hand with him for his Wiffe, but he will nowaie agree to accept her. She hath bin kept till this day from her Majesties presens, greatly to her grief and disgrace as she sayth.”

The second letter is from the Earl of Shrewsbury to his brother-in-law, John Manners.



GEORGE TALBOT, 6TH EARL OF SHREWSBURY.

From Portrait at Hardwick Hall, belonging to the Duke of Devonshire.

“Oatlands, 24 September 1584.

“I have been well received by the Queen and Council. My Wife has come to Court and finds great friends. I try all I can to be rid of this burdensome charge.”

“Showsburye.”

The Earl and Countess were never reconciled, though earnest efforts were made by the Queen, the bishop of the diocese (Lichfield and Coventry), and other friends. As time went on his malady, the gout, so increased that those nearest to him thought his mind was affected, and he died a misanthrope in the year 1590. He was buried with his ancestors in the parish church at Sheffield. His epitaph was drawn up by Foxe, the martyrologist, before his death, whose papers, with the corrections and additions, can still be seen in the library of the British Museum. The name of Elizabeth Hardwycke, his second wife, does not appear. The date of the earl's decease has not yet been added to the epitaph.

In the same year that the Earl died, preparations were made for the building of the new hall at Hardwick, and in the year 1591 the work was begun in earnest. The accounts are preserved in the muniment-room, and are admirably kept by one of the chaplains, Sir Henry Jenkinson, the “Sir” being the title given to the clergy at that time, as we may see from Shakespeare's plays, and is the English representation of “Dominus.”

“Workes begon at Hardwicke on the xxixth of Martch by the Right honorable ladie Elizabeth Countesse of Shrowsbury in the three and thirtieth year of y^e Queen Mties Raynge Anno Dom. 1591.”

About £20 on an average—about £150 present value—seems to have been spent on wages and material each fortnight; and when at home at Hardwick the Countess herself each fortnight audited and signed the accounts.

Towards the end of this year her ladyship went to London for the winter, and stayed at her house at Chelsea some eight months. She had her litter and four horses, several waggons for the luggage, and some forty-three riding horses

for the attendants. It was like a royal progress. We give the accounts in full, for they give us a picture of the travelling at that date, and of the expenses connected with it.

“The Charges of my Lad. Journye from Hardwicke to Chelsye xxxijth. R.E. An. Dom. 1591.

(1) At Nottingam the xvijth of November, the chargs of the kychin seven pounds, eleven shillings sixpence, as a particular Bill now playnlie appeareth.

The Charge of the Stable there, as by the same bill appeareth, and for horsse fve pounds, eyghtene shillinge, eleven pence

in toto xiiij*li*. xs. v*d*.

Geven to the pore there fortye shillings xls.

Itm to the Waits there fve shillings vs.

(2) The charge at Leyc: the xixth of November for the kychin, seven pounds, eleven shillings fve pence.

And for the Stable charges there the same daie fve pounds six shillings sixpence xij*li*. xvij*s*. xj*d*.

Geven towarde the repayrings of Melyvare Bridge xxs.

Gyven to the poore of the towne fortye shillinge xls.

To the Ringers there fve shillings vs.

And to the Ways of the towne fve shill. vs.

(3) Charges at Harborow the xxth of November for the kychin fve pounds eyghtene shill.

The Stable charges there the same daie foure pounds seven shillings tenpence in toto xli. vs. x*d*.

Geven to the poore there xxs.

It. geven to the Ringes there at two sundrie tymes eyght shillings fore pence in toto xxviij*s*. iij*d*.

(4) The charges at Northamton the xxst of November for the kychin seven pounds thirteen shillings tenpence

ffor horse meete and Stable charges there foure pounds tene shillings tenpence in toto xij*li*. iij*s*. viij*d*.

Itm geven to the poore there fortye shillings

Itm to the Ways fve shillings in toto xl*v*s.

(5) The chargs at Stonie Stratford the xxijth of November as by a particular bill aperethe for the kychin six pounds, seventene shillings seven pence.

The Stable charges there as by the same particular bill appereth fore pounds seven shillings two pence in toto xj*li*. iij*s*. ix*d*.

Geven to the poore of the towne twentie shills.

To musitions there fve shillings

To the Ringers there three shillings iij*d*

in toto xxviij*s*. iij*d*.

(6) The charges at Dunstable the xxijth of November by a particular bill apperethe for the kychin six pounds seven shillings three pence.

The Stable charges there the same daie fyve pounds nyne shillings.
in toto xj*li*. xvjs. iij*d*.

Geven to the poore there twentie shillings

It. To Musitions there fyve shillings

To the Ringers three shillings and forepence.

in toto xxvijs. iij*d*.

(7) Charges at Barnette the xxiiith of November for the kytchin fyve pounds eyghtene shillings nyne pence.

Stable Charges there the same night, and the nyght after at London fyve pounds vjs. x*d*.
in toto xj*li*. vs. vij*d*.

To the poore there twentye shillings

And to the Ringers

iijs. iij*d*.

in toto xxvijs. iij*d*.

Total Expenses of Journey to London comes to £97 3s. 10d.

Or multiplied by 7 for present value, comes to about £680.

Whilst at Chelsea the Countess made an important purchase of tapestry. It had belonged to Sir Christopher Hatton, and had hung at Holmbey, in co. Northampton, where, it will be noticed, she called on her return journey. Sir Christopher was succeeded by his sister's son, Sir William Newport, who took the name of Hatton. The tapestry—the story of Gideon—still hangs at Hardwick on the west side of the long gallery, almost covered by portraits, so that few notice it. The Countess had her own coat of arms painted and placed on each of the seventeen pieces of tapestry to cover the Hatton coat of arms.

“ July ixth, in the xxxiiith year of E.R. (1592).

“ Bought of Sre Wyllyam hatton.

“ Paid the tenth of July for one peece of Arras of the storje of Abraham, conteyning fortye Flemish Elles at fortene shillings the Ell, twenty eight pounds.

It. for xvij peces of Arras conteyning one Thousand Ells and an halfe of Arras of the Storje of Gedeon at Six shillings sixpence the flemish ell cometh to three hundreth twenty six pounds fiftene shillings and nyne pence whereof for makinge of newe armes was abated fyve pounds, and likewise one stick and an halfe in mouldis—cominge to nyne shillings, nyne pence, and so the Residye paid ys three hundreth twentie one pounds vjs.¹

¹ About £2,249 2s. od. in present value of money.

“Payde to Mr Sheldons man for seventene armises to set upon hangings
xxxs. iiijd.

“Geven to Mr Sheldons man that brought the armise for the hanging
xs.”

Januarye xviiith E.R. 34 (1592).

“Delivered unto Mr W^m Cavendishe the xviiith of Januar Towarde
 the payment of Mr Edward Savage his lands in Staynsbie and Heathe,
 etc., Two thousand and fyfthe Poundes ijm. lii.”

“Marche the xiiith Eliz. R. 34 (1592).

“Deliverd unto Mr W^m Cavendishe the xiiij of Marche to paie unto
 Mr Edward Savage in full payment of all his lands in Stainsbie and
 Heethe, etc., Thirtene Hundrethe poundes. mijc*li*.”¹

Stainsby and Hardwick are both in the parish of Hault-Hucknall. This was a substantial addition to the Hardwick estate. Stainsby Manor had belonged to the Savage family for many generations. The grandfather of Edward Savage was Sir John Savage, who married a daughter of the Earl of Worcester. There is a window to their memory in Hault-Hucknall Church, and the royal arms can be seen painted on her cloak. A brother of his was Thomas Savage, who became Archbishop of York in the year 1501. His biographer relates of him that nothing pleased him so much as “The Music of his Horn and Hounds.” Another brother was Prior of Newstead, co. Notts. In Lord Byron’s (the poet) time a brass eagle lectern was found in one of the ponds at Newstead. It was supposed to have been thrown there at the dissolution of the priory. It is now in use at Southwell Cathedral. It has on the stem which bears the eagle an inscription: “Orate pro anima Radulphi Savage et pro animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum.” “Ralph” was a patronymic of this family, which possessed lands at North Wingfield, where there used to be in the parish church a Savage chantry chapel, and also at Rock Savage in the county of Chester. It is thought the lectern was a present from Ralph Savage to the priory whilst his relative was head of

¹ £2,050 and £1,300 = £3,350. About £23,450 present value.

the community. The priory had lands in the parish, and the priors had the appointment of the vicars of the parish church. The priory also built a chapel at Rowthorne, a hamlet one mile distant from the church.

The Countess would doubtless be at Court frequently during her stay at Chelsea, but before leaving town for the country her ladyship paid a parting visit to Greenwich, where, at the Palace there, the Queen was now holding her Court.

“ Julye sixth 1592.

Paid for the hyre of X hacknies from Greenwich to Chelsie at ijs. iiij*d*. the peece twenty three shillings iiij*d*.

xxiijs. iiij*d*.

Payd more the same daie for the hyre of six Boats from greenwich to Chelsie at three shillings the boate eyghtene shillings, and for one that brought my La. Arbellas stufte from Chelsie to greenwiche three shillings

xxjs.

Paid for the carriage of the Litther horses twice over the watter, twenty pence

xx*d*.

Itm. geven to ij of my Lord Bishope of Bristowe's barge more, fyve shillings

vs.

Paid for the boate that caried yr La. men over Eyght pence

vii*d*.

Paid for Stable roome at Grenwich fore the Litther horses

iiij*d*.

Payd the same daie unto Tymothie (Pusey, Lady Arbella Stuart's man) upon a bill, as by the same appeareth nyntene shillings tenpence

xixs. x*d*.

Given the xxth of the same unto the poor of Chelsye twenty shillings

xxs.

Paid for the charge of the House of greenwich for iij daies and di. ended the sixth of July fyfthe fyve shillings, eyght pence

lvs. viij*d*.

Paid for the charge of the house of Chelsie as by the household booke thereof appeareth for one hole weeke ended on Saterdaie the xxijth of Julye Six pounds twelve shillings sixpence

v*l*i. xijs. v*j**d*.

Itm. geven the xxvijth of July to one Mr hilliard¹ for the drawinge of one pictur

xls.

Itm. geven unto the same Mr hilliard twentie shillings

xxs.

Itm. more unto one Rowland for the drawinge of one other picture fortye shillings

xls.

Itm geven the xxvijth of Julye unto Ramsaie fortye shillings

xls.”

“ July xxix. 1592.

for iiij Thimbles and an Nidle casse of Silver and guilt

xxs. /7*℥*]

1 Hilliard the celebrated Miniature Painter.

“The Charges of my Ladies Jorneye from Chylsie to hardwicke beyene the last of Julye 1592, and ended on fridaie the fyfth of August ano. Sup. dict.

At Dunstable on Mondaie nyght the last of Julye for provision for my Ladies people there iiij*li*. xiijs. vjd.

for iiij. litter horses Six shillings vjd.

for six waggon horses two shillings vjd.

for xxxix hacknie horses at vjd. the peece nyntyne Shillinges, Sixpence xixs. vjd.

for the hyre of two horsse, a sumpter horse, and one for a Cooke six shillings vjs.

geven the same daie to Mr Sentlow Kniveton fyve pounds v*li*.

This was Mr. St. Loe Kniveton, the antiquary, brother to Mr. William Kniveton, nephew and page to the Countess, afterwards Sir William Kniveton of Mercaston.

geven more to the poore of dunstable xxs.

To the Ringers there fyve shillings vs.

To Musitions there fyve shillings vs.

To the Ringers of Stonie Stretford three shillings iiij*d*. iijs. iiij*d*.

At Norhampton.

Paid for houshold charges at Norhampton on Tuesdaie the first of August fyve pounds iiij*s*. vjd. v*li*. iiij*s*. vjd.

ffor iiij litter horses six shillings sixpence vjs. vjd.

ffor xliij hacknie horses twentie one shilling vjd. xxjs. vjd.

geven to the house there fyve shillings vs.

Geven to Musitions there fyve shillings vs.

And to the Ringers two shillings Sixpence ijs. vjd.

paid for the mending of ij Litter Saddles xij*d*.

Geven the same daie to the Keeper of Sr. W. Hattons house at Holmbye, twentye shill. xxs.

Paid for the household charges at Leicestr on Wednesdaie the ij of August as by a particular bill therof appeareth Six pounds, Six shillings, ninepence v*li*. vjs ix*d*.

for iiij litter horses, seven shillings vjd. vijs. vjd.

for xlv hackneis twentie two shillings sixpence xxijs. vjd.

for vj waggon horses three shillings iijs.

geven to the house six shill. vjs.

geven to the poore there xxs. xxs.

To the Ringers there two shillings six p. ijs. vjd.

To Musitions Ten shillings xs.

ffor Bayttinge of the iiij litter horsse by the waie viij*d*.

ffor Clouts and Nayles for the waggon and Coache xxj*d*.

To Turner that he dronke by the way in coming from Chelsie two shillings two pence ijs. ij*d*.

paid for the Suppers of ij waggon men and Magret hull and Mary Steward on Sundaie at night ijs. and for drink by the waye iiij*s*. vjs.

Geven at Mr Parpoynts at houlme unto the Officers of the house foure poundes iiij*li*.

This was Holme-Pierpoint, near Nottingham, where the eldest daughter of the Countess lived, being married to Sir Henry Pierpoint. It would seem that the Countess stayed there two nights—Thursday and Friday.

To the poore of the Towne twentie shill.	xxs.
Paid for Bread and Ale there for ij Litter horses	vij <i>d</i> .
Geven to the Keeper of Sr ffrancis Willoughbie his house at Wollaton ten shill :	xs.
And to one that opened Wollaton Park gate	iiij <i>d</i> .
geven to the Ringers at Tevershall	iijs. viij <i>d</i> .
And extra for xij Waynes and Horses from Chelsie to Hardwick at fifty three shillings and fourpence	liijs. iiij <i>d</i> .
“Somme Totall of payments for one week ending on Satterdaie the vth of August ys One Hundreth twelve poundes fyfteeen shillings tenn pence.”	
(About £789 10s. 10d. present value.)	

Copy of an account of the Countess of Shrewsbury with her silversmith. It will be seen that several of the bowls or cups, and the red deer pies or venison pasties, were for Her Majesty's judges and gentlemen of the long robe. The Countess had several law suits going on at this time, and her ladyship appears to have been mindful of the Roman maxim : “ Fight with silver spears and you will conquer all things.” There were five lawyers' bills paid in the year 1601, of which one, for a suit against Gilbert, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury, and Sir George Saville, consisted of five quarto pages of charges, and four others, amounting together to £174 13s. 1d., which, multiplied by seven to give the probable present value, amount to £1,222 11s. 7d.

“ The accompte of Henry Travice to my La. from the fifteenthe daye of September in the too and fortythe yere of the Raigne of our Sovaigne Ladye Elizabeth [1600].

Received of my la. by the hands of my Mr w^{ch} her la^d delivered him in the contrye to paye at London three hundred pound ccc*li*.
disbursed as followeth :

The xxth September for Carridge of five red deare pyes to london for Mr Roger Manrs, weight fourscore and fourtyne pound at 1*d*. the pound, vijs. x*d*.

The first of October for carriage of tenn red deare pyes to London, whereof sixe given to Mr Attorney and foure to my lord Cheefe Barron cl*l*. at 1*d*. the pound xijs. v*d*.

The xth October for carriage of tenn red deare pyes to London given to Mr ffanshawe and Mr Osborne, weight xj stone at 1*d.* per pound

xij*s.* x*d.*

The xxiiijth November for a gilt strayner at v*js.* viii*d.* the ounce

li*js.* iiij*d.*

for twelve gilt sponnes at v*js.* viii*d.* the oz.

iiij*li.* iiij*d.*

for a single bell salt at v*js.* viii*d.*

xl*js.*

for a gilt bowle at v*js.* viii*d.* ye oz.

xxix*s.* iiij*d.*

for a gilt paper boxe at the same price

xxij*s.* iiij*d.*

for a gilt castinge bottle, at the same price

ii*li.*

for a gilte bowle and a cov^r. at ye same price

ii*li.* xij*s.* iiij*d.*

for an other gilt boule and cov^r. at v*js.* viii*d.*

xli*js.* iiij*d.*

for a double cupp gilte at v*js.* the ounce

ix*l.* ix*s.*

for too white porringers at v*s.* v*d.* ye oz.

ii*li.* xvii*js.* iiij*d.*

for a white Egg dishe at v*js.* ye ounce

ii*li.* xii*js.* viij*d.*

for a white Standishe at v*s.* the ounce

ii*li.* x*s.*

for making thereof

x*s.*

for sixe payre of snuffers at iii*js.* x*d.* ob. ye oz.

lix*s.*

for makinge them at v*js.* a payre

xxxv*js.*

for sixe graters at iii*js.* x*d.* ob. the oz.

l*js.*

for makinge them at iii*js.* v*d.* a peece

xxvi*js.*

for three white boules at v*s.* v*d.* the ounce

v*li.* xv*s.* viij*d.*

for makinge upp of fyve purses wch was sent upp

xii*js.* v*d.*

my La. neweyers gifte to the queene in newe xx*s.* peacs of gould

xl*l.*

my la. neweyers gifte to my la. Stafford in like gould

x*l.*

my la. neweyers gifte to my lo. Treasurer

xx*l.*

my la. neweyers gift to Mr Secretarie in like gould

xx*l.*

my la. neweyers gift to Mr Attorney in like gould

x*l.*

my la. neweyers gifte to my la. Cheeke a gilt bole and cover at v*js.* viij*d.* the ounce

v*li.* xv*s.* x*d.*

my la. neweyers gifte to my La. Skidmore a gilt bole and cover at

v*js.* viij*d.* the ounce

v*l.* ii*js.*

my la. neweyers gift to Mr Maynard a gilt bole and cover at v*js.* viij*d.*

the ounce

v*l.* xvi*js.* v*d.*

my la. rewarde to the Mr of the Jewell house for the Queens neweyers gifte to my la.

xxx*s.*

for a boxe to carie yt in

vii*d.*

to Robt Snygood for carrienge yt to Mansfeild

vii*d.*

for carridge of seven red deare pyes to london whereof 4 to Mr Attorney and iiij to my la. Cheeke, wt. c*l.* at 1*d.* ob. the pounce

xii*js.*

for sixe yards of blacke velvet at xxi*js.* the yarde

v*li.* xij*s.*

for one ounce di. of blacke spanishe silke at xxi*d.* ye oz.

i*js.* ix*d.*

The fourth februarie to Mr Colman receiver of the subsidies of the nobillitie for my la. subsidie being the third entire subsidie graunted to her matie in the xxxixth yere of her Raigne

cli.

To Mr Coleman for his acquittance for ye same	ijs.
To my Lord Treasurers Steward his fee for my la. bill of impost	xs.
To his man for enterynge yt	ijs.
for a pyre cupp and cov ^d . gilt, Given to Sr Edwarde dyer	viiijl. xvjs.
for a white boxe at iiijs. xd. ob. the ownce	ljs.
for makinge the same boxe	xijs.
for gilding yt	viijs. iijd.
for makinge the locke and key for yt	vjs.
for a gilt boule and cover at vjs. viijd. the oz.	iiijl. xjs. viijd.
Soma tolis. Three hundred pounds five shill: viijd.	
And soe Remayneth due to me five shill. eight pence wch I have Received.	Henry Traveice."

"I payed to traves the fould some of his byll."

This last in the large bold hand of the Countess.

About the year 1602 there was a very mysterious episode in the life of Lady Arbella Stuart which caused her grandmother, the Countess, infinite trouble. On account of her nearness to the throne, the Privy Council laid strict charge on her grandmother that she should be most careful as to who should be admitted, and with whom she should have intercourse at Hardwick. The Lady Arbella rebelled against her strict surveillance, and wished to be away. Her uncles, Mr. Henry Cavendish and Sir Charles Cavendish, of Welbeck, appear to have taken her side. Some have thought it was a love affair; that the Earl of Essex, the Queen's former favourite, but who had been sent to execution in the previous year (1602), had much to do with it—that his death sent her well-nigh out of her mind. It would seem that he visited at Hardwick. In the Countess of Shrewsbury's accounts the following entries appear:

"Nov. x. E. R. xxxvij (1595).	
Given unto certaine of the Lord of Essex his men	vs.
Sept. vth Eliz. Rne xxxix. 1597.	
To v. of the Earle of Essex men	ijs. vjd."
(£1 present value.)	

Others have believed that she was wishing to marry one of the sons of the Earl of Hertford, and eventually she did marry Mr. William Seymour, the younger son, but at this time, in the year 1602, he was only eighteen, and the

Lady Arbella was twenty-seven. She declared that she would only open her mind to someone sent down by the Privy Council; and the Countess, for her own rest and quietness, prayed that the request might be granted, and Sir Henry Brounker was sent down.

The following correspondence has been copied from the original letters contained in the Cecil MSS., now at Hatfield House, the seat of the Marquis of Salisbury. Sir Robert Cecil was Secretary of State at this time; the correspondence passed through his hands, and he became the first Earl of Salisbury.

From Sir Henry Brounker to Queen Elizabeth, about January 5th, 1602-3.¹

"May it please yr most excellent mytie. On friday I came to Hardwick and founde the house wthoute any strange companye. My Ladye of Shrewsbury after she hadde my name sente for me into her gallery where she was walkinge wth the la. Arbella and her sonne Will^m Cavendishe. I tould her la^p in the hearinge of her grandchylde that yr heghnes havinge occasion to sende me downe into those parts commanded me to see her Lp. and to comende yr mytie unto her wth all gracious favour; the oulde Lady tooke sutch comforte at this message as I coulde hardly keepe her from knelinge, then drawinge her on wth other compliments towards the farther ende of the gallery to free her from the younge ladye I delivered yr Mties letter. In the readinge therof I observed some change of countenance wch gave me occasion agayne to comfort hir wth the assurance of yr myties goode opinion and favour, and to desire that according to yr highnes pleasure I might speake privately to the La. Arbella, wch after pttestation of her owne innocencye and love to yr majties she easily granted. So leaving her there I lead the La. Arbella to the other ende of the longe Gallery when I toulde her that yr mytie wished her well gave her thanks for her newe yeres gifte and did graciously accept it, and would be glad to her (*sic*) how she did, and added wth all that yr highness had observed in some things a dutiful respecte in her towards your Majtie only I must breake a matter unto her Lp. wch yr Majtie willed me to tell her that y^u tooke unkindly consideringe howe ready she would have been upon any notice from herself or grandmother at any time to have yelded to any resonable desires if yr highness had been acquainted with it."

When Sir Henry Brounker came down, Lady Arbella had nothing to acknowledge; he could obtain nothing from her.

¹ Cecil MSS.

She was therefore bidden to write her mind, and send the letter after him; and she wrote folios and folios, wandering from one subject to another, hinting at some mystery, but declaring nothing.

The following letter from the Lady Arbella to Queen Elizabeth, after the visit of Sir Henry Brounker, shows that she could write rationally enough when she had a mind to do so.

“January 1602-3.

“May it please your most excellent Majesty. Sr Henry Bruncker hath charged me with many things, the most whearof I acknowledge to be true; and am hartily sory that I have given your Majesty the least cause of offence. The particulars and the manner of handling, I have to avoide your Majesties trouble, delivered to Sr. Henry Bruncker. I humbly prostrate myselfe at your Majesties feete, craving pardon for what is passed, and of your Princely clemency to signify your Majesties most gracious remission to me by your Highnesses letter to my La. my Grand Mother, whose discomfourt I shall be till then. The Almighty encrease and for ever continue your Majesties divine vertues and prosperity wherwt you blessed blessed us all.

“Your Majesties most humble and dutiful handmaide,

“Arbella Stuart.

“To the Queens

“Most Excellent Majesty.”

“The Dowager Countess of Shrewsbury to the Right Honourable Sir Robert Cecil, knight, principal secretary to Her Majesty.”¹

“Feb. 21. 1602-3.

“Sir—I must beseech you to bear with my often troubling you. Since my late letter to you, Arbell hath been very sick with extreme pain of her side, which she never had before, so as I was in great fear of her. She hath had a doctor of physick with her for a fortnight together, and enforced to take much physick this unseasonable time, but finds little ease. I see her mind is the cause of all. She saith that if she might speak with Sir Henry Brounker or some other sent from her Majesty, she should be well, for that she hath a great desire to satisfy her Majesty in all matters, whose gracious favour and good opinion she desireth above all earthly things. Good Mr Secretary, my most earnest suit is that it will please you to be a mean to her sacred Majesty for the speedy sending down of Sir Henry Brounker or some other, to whom Arbell is

¹ From Cecil Papers.

desirous to declare sundry things which she saith she will utter to none but one sent from her Majesty. The Almighty ever prosper her Majesty with the continuance of his great blessing. And so desiring you, good Mr Secretary, to hold me excused for importuning you in this sort, I will take my leave, praying GOD to grant you all honour and happiness.

“From Hardwick this 21st of February 1602-3.

“Your most assured, loving friend,

“E. Shrewsbury.

“P.S.—Arbell is so wilfully bent that she hath made a vow not to eat or drink in this house at Hardwick, or where I am, till she may hear from her Majesty, so that for preservation of her life, I am enforced to suffer her to go to a house of mine, called Old Cotes, two miles from here. I am wearied of my life, and therefore humbly beseech her Majesty to have compassion on me. And I earnestly pray you to send Sir Henry Brounker hither.”

In the month of March the plot grows; it was evidently the intention to carry Lady Arbella away from Hardwick. The Countess, on the same day it was attempted, sat down and wrote the following long and interesting account of it. The long gallery referred to by Sir Henry Brounker, and the gateway to the front court of the hall, where the altercation took place, can still be seen exactly as they were three hundred years ago.

“10 March 1602-3.

“Good Sr Henry Brounker.

“This Thursday the xth of March, about xij of the Clock Arbell came out of hir chamber, went towards the gate (as she sayde) intending to walke, but being pswaded it was dinner tyme did stayer. About too of the Clock in the afternoone there came to my gates my sonne Henry Cavendishe and one Mr Stapleton sonne and heire to Stapleton of Carleton in Yorkshire (Ancestor of Lord Beaumont of Carlton Park) wth him for that Arbell was desirous to speak wth my bad sonne Henry. I was content to suffer him to come into my house, and speaken to hir rather than she to go to him, but sent him worde not remayne here above too houers. I woulde not suffer Stapleton to come wthin my Gates, for I have disliked him of long for many reports. It is aboute viij yeres since I sawe him; he hath written to me many tymes to know yf he might come, but I disliking him would not suffer him, so as he never durst psume till nowe to offer to come. Arbell and Henry Cavendishe had not talked as I think a dozen wordes together, but they both came downe and offred to goe out of my gates. One of my servants intreated them not to offer to goe out until they had my consent. Arbell seemed

unwilling to stayer, yet at length by pswasion did stay, till worde was brought to me. When I understoode of it, I sent to hir that I did not think it good she should speake wth Stapleton, and wisht hir to forebeare it, for I thought Stapleton no fitt man for hir to converse or talk wthall. She askt if she were a prisoner, and sayde she would see, and so went to the gates, and would have gone out, but was not suffered, yet she did speak to Stapleton, looking through the gate, some wayne idle words of salutation and bad him goe to Mansfield, and stayer there till he harde from hir, wth some more wordes to no purpose, many being p^{re}sent and hearing what they sayd. So wth much sending to Stapleton to de^{re}pt, at length he went from my gates. She had appoynted Henry Cavendishe to come hither agayne tomorowe wch I forbad, and so I think he will not come; he was no sooner gon out of my gates, but she made herself reddie to walke abroad wch I thought not convenient she should doe, and so she stayde. Other dayes she hath walked to take the ayer in severall plac^{es}. One came hither yesterdaye morning post from London to Arb^{ell} from hir servant Chaworth. I here he brought back to hir a letter wch Chaworth should have delyvered to you wch she was seene to burne p^{re}sently uppon the receipt of it, and returned him wth other letters to you agayne. She sayth she hath likewise sent Basset hir page to London poste too dayes since wth letters to you. She never rests writing and sending up and downe in the cuntrye and to London, as she sayth. Henry Cavendishe her showed to have but three or foure men wth him, and Stapleton but one; I suffred but one of Henry Cavendishe's men to come into the house wth him; but I am informed that there were of their company whoe kept themselves secret wthin a quarter of a mile of the house above fortie horsmen well weaponed and some of them had daggs; they were in four severall companies—some at Hucknall, viz., at one Mrs Iretons xij; at one Chapmans house there tenn; in a bushie ground nere here calléd Rowthorne Carr ix or x; and tenn at one Doves house in Rowthorne, where Stapleton hath lurked three dayes, as I harde even nowe. They being thus wickedly disposed, maye as well have five hundreth men wthin a myle of the house and I not understand of their ill intent. Arb^{ell} threatens and will give it out uppon any little occasion, being intreated not to speak wth any bad bodie that she is kept as a prisoner. I should not so much have forgotten myself to have troubled hir Matie, and some of hir Maties privie Counsell for Arbellas remove hence, but that I feared the danger that I was not able for my lyfe to withstand; and she being here one daye, I feare I shall not have hir here the morrowe, yf I shoulde suffer hir but to goe wthout my gates. In my opinion it were best she were removed farther from the North, wch waye I fear she woulde goe; she shall not of long tyme in the South be acquainted wth so many to help hir as she is hereabouts.

I here that one of the company had a pillion to carry a woman behind him and covered it with a Cloke. And so being very late this thursdaye night the xth of March I cease.

“Wishing you all happyness,
“from Hardwick.

“Your very assured loving frend,

“E. Shrouesbury.”

This incident in the lives of the Countess of Shrewsbury and the Lady Arbella Stuart was closed by the latter going to Wrest House, the Earl of Kent's, who had married her cousin, a daughter of Gilbert, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury. She was there at the time of the Queen's death, 24th March, 1602; and, as the Queen's nearest relation, was specially requested to have honoured the funeral with her presence, but as she had been systematically neglected by the Queen during her life, she declined the honour.

James VI. of Scotland was peacefully proclaimed King of England.

The Countess of Shrewsbury died at Hardwick, February 13th, 1608, aged 87 years. Her funeral took place at All Saints', Derby. Her monument and tomb had been prepared during her lifetime; but the inscription cannot have been placed there or completed till many years after, for the title of the Duke of Newcastle appears upon it, and that title was only granted after the Restoration by Charles II., about the year 1664.

The following charges appear amongst the accounts of the Countess:

“Mr Benet of Derby (Vicar of All Saints) his bill for getting stone for the foundation of the tombe:

To too laborers fyve dayes to bare the quaire at viij <i>d</i> .	a daye a peece vjs. viij <i>d</i> .
To same to eight dayes more to get stone	xs. viij <i>d</i> .
To Thomas Lychfield the Chief Stone-getter xiiij <i>d</i> .	a daye for viij dayes ixs. iiij <i>d</i> .

For leading fortie loads of stone, it being too myles from Derby at xiiij*l.*
 the load xlvjs. viij*l.*
 or iiij*l.* xiijs. iiij*l.*

Payde to Mr Benet over and above his first bill iiij*l.* xiijs. iiij*l.* payde
 before for worke done about the foundation of the tombe as appeareth
 by the bill iiij*l.* ijs. ij*l.*

That is to say, a sum of £7 15s. 6d., or, as it would
 be in present value, £54 8s. 6d., laid out in the foundation
 of her tomb in All Saints'.

Horace Walpole tells us that the estates of the Countess in her lifetime were reckoned at £60,000 a year; and in the year 1760 when he wrote that they were let for £200,000. As to her character, Lodge, in his *Gallery of Portraits*, speaks of her as "a woman of masculine understanding and conduct; proud, furious, selfish, and unfeeling. She was a builder, a buyer, and seller of estates, a moneylender, a farmer, and a merchant of lead, coals, and timber." But Lodge is here only telling us that the Countess was a creation of the sixteenth century in England. She was such another as the first lady in the land—Queen Elizabeth. It is recorded of the Queen that she swore; she spat upon a courtier's coat when it did not please her taste; she beat her gentlewomen soundly; she gave Essex a good stinging blow upon the face, and made his hand fly to the hilt of his sword; she called the members of her Privy Council by all sorts of nicknames, and woe to him who would presume to take liberties to cross her purpose and forget that she was Queen. Such was the civilization of England in the sixteenth century.

As to what is said about the Countess and her "buying and selling," it must be remembered that for nearly the last twenty years of her life she had no husband to manage her estates; she was perforce driven to attend to business herself; and as to her being "a moneylender, a farmer, a merchant of lead, of coal and timber," there are many peers in this day who would be only too glad if the same could be said of them. She was a great builder—building Chatsworth, but

not in its present stateliness, which is mainly the work of the first duke. She added twice to her father's house at Hardwick, the old Hall; then the present hall at Hardwick; and Old Cotes, in the parish of Heath, now destroyed. There is said to have been a prediction by a gipsy that the Countess should not die as long as she continued building. A frost set in, and she was prevented building, and she died.